

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to dogs attending our school grounds.

POLICY

Assistance dogs

Bairnsdale Secondary College understands its obligations under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth) and the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* (Vic) and will make reasonable adjustments for members of our school community with a disability who require an 'assistance animal' to help alleviate the effects of their disability.

Therapy / Assistance animals are permitted to attend our school with their handler under specific circumstances. A school dog will be with the handler or staff member at all times and is not permitted to wander around the school unattended. When in class, the dog will be settled on his mat in a 'down stay' position unless otherwise directed by the handler.

We understand that there may be some families who do not want the dog to work directly with their child. When this is the case these families can communicate directly with the office.

Our school Principal can lawfully ask a person to produce evidence that an animal:

- is trained specifically to assist a person alleviate the effects of a disability (e.g. seeing eye dogs)
- meets standards of hygiene and behaviour appropriate for a school environment.

Pet dogs

Bairnsdale Secondary College is not a public place, and the Principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry.

While Bairnsdale Secondary College understands that many families in our school community keep dogs as pets, to ensure that our school remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone, pet dogs are not permitted on school grounds. Our school community is diverse, and may include people that are allergic or uncomfortable around dogs. We ask that families please leave their pet dogs at home or safely tether them outside school grounds when attending our school or school events.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Bairnsdale Secondary College Policies:

- BSC Duty of Care Policy 3-6-19
- BSC Visitors Policy 12-12-18